

INDIANA AND THE CIVIL WAR  
BY E. G. MORTKY

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INDIANA IN GENERAL

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# Indiana

## Indiana and the Civil War

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

# INDIANA AND THE

By **DR. R. GERALD McMURTRY**

All photographs courtesy Lincoln National Life Foundation

FOR MANY years Abraham Lincoln's residence in Indiana was often called "the missing link in Lincoln's life." Until recently historians and biographers have written in a rather vague way, of those 14 years—those long growing years of his boyhood and youth. These writers related how his angel mother died when young Abe was only 9; how father Thomas Lincoln returned to Kentucky to marry his old sweetheart, Sally Bush Johnson, a widow burdened with a family that was fatherless; how Abe made a long trip by flatboat to New Orleans; how Abe studied books and took long walks across the country; how Abe read the *Life of Washington* by Weems; how Abe went to "Forest College" and secured a defective education, and how schoolmaster Azel Dorsey prophesied that Abe was destined to succeed somehow.

These dim and somewhat legendary stories have been repeated time and time again. Yet for some unexplained reason only careful students of history appreciated the great contribution Indiana made to Abraham Lincoln between the years 1816 and 1830. Fortunately, in 1959 the Indiana Historical Society and the firm of Appleton-Century-Crofts Inc., published Dr. Louis A. Warren's exhaustive work entitled *Lincoln's Youth—Indiana Years—Seven to Twenty-one—1816-1830* which is based on authentic sources and documentary evidence. This scholarly work has been widely distributed and has at last provided the public with a much needed lesson in history. No longer are people of the opinion that Lincoln was born in Kentucky and in some miraculous way

appeared in Illinois where he trod the path of destiny.

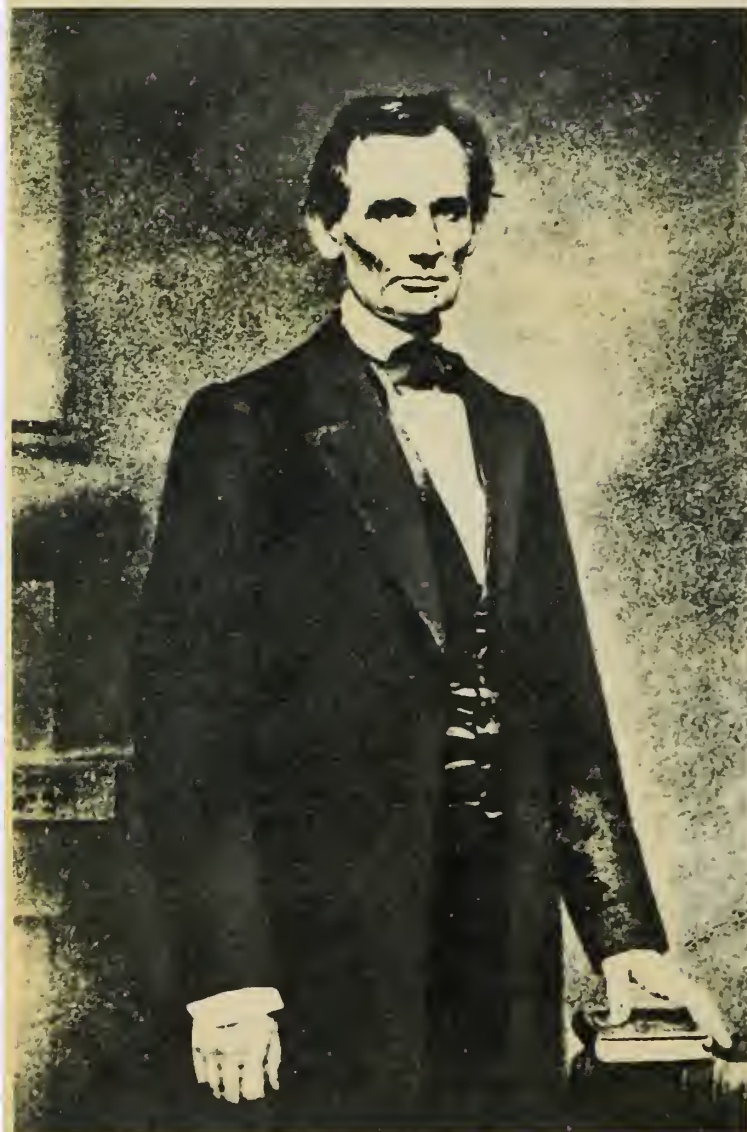
In truth, the state of Indiana looms large in the biography of Abraham Lincoln and in a sense Lincoln looms large in the history of Indiana. Not only was Lincoln associated with the early history of the state, but he was born in Kentucky the same year, 1809, that Indiana was set apart from Illinois as a separate territory.

LINCOLN GREW up in the State of Indiana, coming to it at the time the state was established in (Dec. 11) 1816, and remained in it until 1830—the year the Society of Indiana Pioneers set apart as the concluding year of the pioneer era. When Lincoln came to Indiana as a lad of 7 years there were but 15 counties in the state. When Lincoln left the Hoosier state, he was a grown man, 6 feet 4 inches tall and weighing 200 pounds. In the meantime Indiana had grown up and in 1830 58 counties had been established. In 1816 there were but 63,000 people in Indiana, but by the year 1830 there were 341,582 inhabitants.

Indiana was sparsely settled in 1816 but we must not conclude that the Thomas Lincoln family were the first settlers in the region where they decided to make their home. The year before they arrived (1815) 318 men paid taxes in Perry County, the county in which the Lincolns settled. On a Fourth of July celebration in 1815 on the banks of the Wabash River, 150 people were present—all living from 6 to 12 miles from the New Harmony settlement.

About 40 miles east of Thomas Lincoln's cabin was located the state capital of Corydon. About the same

SEPTEMBER 9, 1962



This photograph of Abraham Lincoln was made by Mathew B. Brady, photographer during the Civil War era, Feb. 25, 1860, before Lincoln's Cooper Union Address.



# CIVIL WAR



*The great importance of the Hoosier state to the life and career of the Civil War President is emphasized by a famous student of Abraham Lincoln*



Dr. McMurtry

*Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, outstanding authority on Abraham Lincoln, is director of The Lincoln National Life Foundation, Fort Wayne, and editor of Lincoln Lore.*

*All his life he has been steeped in Lincoln tradition. He was born at Elizabethtown, Ky., where Lincoln's parents first went to housekeeping; some of his relatives lived on the Knob Creek farm once owned by the Lincolns when Abraham was a boy. Dr. McMurtry's own boyhood home was on the same lot in Elizabethtown where lived Thomas Lincoln's second wife.*

*Dr. McMurtry was graduated from Centre College in 1929 and, in 1958, received the degree of Litt.D. Iowa Wesleyan College honored him with LL.D. degree in 1946. Two years after his graduation from Centre, he became librarian of Lincoln National Life Foundation, serving in that capacity until 1935.*

*In 1937 he became director of the Department of Lincolniana at the Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tenn. He is former editor of the Lincoln Herald, devoted exclusively to Lincolniana. He is author of numerous monographs for magazines, books and pamphlets.*

*Among his many valuable contributions has been the gathering at Lincoln Memorial University of the largest collection of literature pertaining to the Civil War period to be found in any institution of higher learning.*

SEPTEMBER 9, 1962

distance west of the Lincoln home was Evansville, which town as early as June 21, 1814, advertised the sale of lots. Their sales publicity was to the effect that "Evansville is in the midst of a flourishing settlement." Princeton, a community to the northwest of Lincoln country, also advertised a lot sale in 1814.

When Abraham Lincoln moved to Indiana practically all of the inhabitants were then living within 100 miles of the Ohio River, and the area to which Lincoln and his parents moved was primarily a Kentucky colony. Oddly enough, Thomas Lincoln was not the first Lincoln to establish a home in southern Indiana. Austin and David Lincoln, two sons of Hannaniah Lincoln of Hardin County, Kentucky, were the first of the family to establish homes in this region. Perhaps it was slavery, faulty Kentucky land titles and the sons of Hannaniah Lincoln that caused the father of the future 16th President to decide to move to the territory that was about to become a state.

There are a lot of hind-sights in history; however, it is perhaps impossible to exaggerate the significance of the crossing of the Ohio River by the Lincolns in 1816. While the Ohio was affectionately called *La Belle Riviere* and acclaimed by many to be the most beautiful river in the world, it was a boundary line between slavery and freedom, between two warring institutions that would rend the nation asunder in the 1860s.

If Lincoln had grown up in the state of Kentucky where slavery was tolerated, it is doubtful if he would have been prepared for leadership in the great struggle that was to follow

One writer has even suggested that a canvas depicting Lincoln crossing the Ohio deserves a place next to that inspirational study of George Washington crossing the Delaware.

LINCOLN LEFT Indiana in a family caravan of 13 people in early March of 1830 en route to Illinois. There is an account in the files of the Lincoln National Life Foundation of a portion of that journey incorporated in a letter written by Peter Smith to J. Warren Keifer of Springfield, O., dated July 17, 1860. Presidential candidate Lincoln told Peter Smith the details of his crossing the Wabash River at Vincennes:

"I crossed the Wabash at Vincennes and the river being high the road on the low prairie was covered with water a half mile at a stretch and the water covered with ice—the only means by which I could keep the road was by observing the stakes on each side placed as guides when the water is over the road. When I came to the water I put a favorite fice dog I had along into the wagon and got in myself and whipped up my oxen and started into the water to pick my way across as well as I could—after breaking the ice and wading about ¼ of a mile my little dog jumped out of the wagon and the ice being thin he broke through and was struggling for life. I could not bear to lose my dog and I jumped out of the wagon and waded waist deep in the ice and water—got hold of him and helped him out and saved him."

Peter Smith asked Lincoln if he was barefoot. Lincoln replied:

"About thirty years ago I did drive my father's ox wagon and team moving my father's family through your

town of Lawrenceville (Ill.) and I was afoot but not barefoot. In my young days I frequently went barefooted but on that occasion I had on a substantial pair of shoes—it was a cold day in March and I never went barefooted in cold weather."

Destiny beckoned to Lincoln as he moved to Illinois. Senator Albert J. Beveridge in his biography of Lincoln related that in that Lincoln-Hanks-Hall clan of 13 people moving by ox team to Illinois only young Abraham knew of that great conflict of reason and eloquence—the Hayne-Webster debate which was the pinnacle of conflict of that great battle over slavery and states rights then raging in the Senate.

When Lincoln left Indiana in 1830 "he was a Whig at heart—ready to enlist, as he quickly did, under the banner of the gallant, dashing 'Harry of the West' (Henry Clay)." Certainly, Indiana can take credit for molding Lincoln's political thinking—and Lincoln's political philosophy was and is today a pretty important factor in United States and world history.

LINCOLN RETURNED to Indiana 14 years later in October, 1844. He came "thinking he might carry the State of Indiana for Mr. Clay." While on this visit he went back into the neighborhood where he was raised—where his mother and sister were buried. He visited such places as Vincennes, Rockport, Evansville and Gentryville. Not one of his speeches has been preserved but there is little doubt about his topic. The topic was protection—a protective tariff. On May 12, 1860, Lincoln wrote Dr. Edward Wallace: "In the days of Henry

(Continued on Page 35)





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## INDIANA AND THE CIVIL WAR ●

(Continued from Page 33)



Cabin built by Thomas Lincoln and his son, Abraham, in Indiana in 1829. It was never occupied by the Lincolns, though usually identified as Lincoln home.

Clay I was a Henry Clay-tariff man, and my views have undergone no material change upon that subject." Lincoln always had great admiration for Henry Clay. In 1861 Lincoln wrote a Springfield citizen that "during my whole political life . . . I have loved and revered (Clay) as a teacher and a leader."

HIS SECOND visit to Indiana was in September (17th) of 1855, when Lincoln traveled by rail to Cincinnati, O. From Bloomington, Ill., Lincoln traveled by way of Chicago, Michigan City, Lafayette and Indianapolis. The trip required about 24 hours. Lincoln went to Cincinnati as counsel in the McCormick Reaper Case, where he was curtly dismissed by Edwin M. Stanton, counsel for the defense (Manny interests), which proved to be one of the most humiliating episodes in his entire legal career. On Sept. 26, Lincoln made the statement that, "I have nothing against the city, but things have so happened here as to make it undesirable for me ever to return . . ." We have no idea as to Lincoln's route of travel homeward. There are traditions about a stage-coach trip Lincoln made with Col. Tom Nelson and Bayless Hanna from Indianapolis to Terre Haute, but the chronology of events do not dovetail well with established facts.

On Sept. 19, 1859, Lincoln appeared for the first time in his life before a large Indiana audience. Indiana's capital was an important city in his Columbus, Dayton, Hamilton, Cincinnati and Indianapolis itinerary. The theme of Lincoln's speeches at this time was a continuation of those questions which had provoked the Lincoln-Douglas debates a year before. Lincoln still opposed Stephen A. Douglas and his interpretation of the motivation of the Founding Fathers in regard to slavery, when they drafted the Constitution. Mrs. Lincoln and one of the sons, perhaps Robert, accompanied Lincoln to Indianapolis. They left Cincinnati on Monday, Sept. 19, at 10:30 a.m. and they arrived in Indianapolis in the afternoon. They stayed at the American House.

That evening, Lincoln spoke before a large audience at the Masonic Hall for nearly two hours. The *Indianapolis Atlas* of Sept. 19, 1858, reported Lincoln's speech. He said that: "Appearing at the capital of this now great State, and traveling through a good portion of it in coming from Cincinnati, had combined to revive his recollection of the earlier years of his life."

He continued, "Away back in the fall of 1816, when he was in his eighth year, his father brought him over from the neighboring State of Kentucky and settled in the State of Indiana, and he grew up to his present enormous height on our own good soil of Indiana."

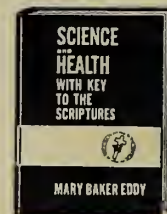
This was a meeting marked with good fellowship, frequently interrupted by cheers and laughter. When Lincoln closed his remarks he sat down amid great applause. According to the *Illinois State Journal* of Sept. 22, 1859, Lincoln is said to have made two speeches in Indiana on his Ohio-Indiana trip. Efforts to find the other speech, or even a reference to the time and place of delivery have been unsuccessful.

There is a tradition that Lincoln went home by way of Terre Haute because his son Robert had been bitten by a dog, and that Indiana city had a famous "Mad Stone." An item which appeared in the *Terre Haute Journal* of 1866 stated that a lady of that city "is in possession of a valuable madstone and it has effected many remarkable cures of dog and snake bites. Hundreds of persons, some from great distances have tested its efficacy in such cases." Certainly evidence of a mad stone at Terre Haute is established. But more evidence is needed to establish the fact of Lincoln's visit there in the early fall of 1859.

ONLY RECENTLY has evidence been discovered that Lincoln traveled through Indiana in February of 1860 en route to New York to deliver his famous Cooper Union address. A news item of but six lines which appeared in *Dawson's Daily News* of Fort

(Continued on Page 37)

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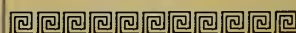
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Wayne Ind. on Thursday, Feb. 23, 1860, revealed that "Hon. Abe Lincoln and wife came from the west this morning at 1 o'clock on the T. (Toledo) W. (Wabash) & W. (Western) R. R. and changing cars at this city went east. 'Old Abe' looked like as if his pattern had been a mighty ugly one." This news story is of considerable significance because it not only adds to our knowledge of the route Lincoln traveled to New York City but it reveals some incorrect assumptions about his activities prior to "the speech which made Lincoln President."

The *Dawson Daily News* reporter was in error in stating that Mrs. Lincoln accompanied her husband. The lady in question was Mrs. Stephen Smith who had with her a son named Dudley. Her husband was a brother of Clark M. Smith who married Ann Todd, a sister of Mrs. Lincoln. Mrs. Smith was en route to her girlhood home in Philadelphia, and Lincoln volunteered to assist her with her baggage as she was traveling with a small child.

The T.W. & W. train arrived in Fort Wayne one hour late on Thursday, Feb. 23, but still there was time to "change cars" at 1:12 a.m. aboard the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Road. Lincoln arrived in New York,

by way of Philadelphia, on Saturday, Feb. 25, in ample time to deliver his great address on Monday, Feb. 27.

En route home Lincoln left New York by the Erie Railroad on Monday, March 12, and changed trains at Toledo on Tuesday, March 13, boarding the T.W. & W. which passed through Fort Wayne at 5:20 p.m. the same day. Apparently only Fort Wayne's *Dawson's Daily News* reported this hurried trip made by Lincoln as he passed through Indiana, in February of 1860.

THE NEXT time Lincoln visited Indiana he came in a blaze of glory. He was on his way to Washington to be inaugurated President of the United States. His inaugural train entered Indiana at State Line on Feb. 11, 1861. The inaugural train made a "whistle stop" tour through all the Indiana towns, except Indianapolis. The towns and cities through which Lincoln traveled were State Line, Lafayette, Thorntown, Lebanon, Zionsville, Indianapolis, Greensburg, Shelbyville, Morris and Lawrenceburg.

The President-elect made rear platform speeches or appearances in the Indiana towns and at Thorntown he started to tell an anecdote to illustrate a point. The train started to move before he got to the place, where the laugh came in, and the people were

left to wonder what the meaning might be. Once the train arrived in Lebanon, Lincoln was informed by the people there that the Thorntown folks had followed the train on foot to hear the rest of the story. The story was about a candidate's horse that stopped to bite every bush and the candidate arrived after the convention was over. So Lincoln said that "if he made a stump speech at every railway station he would not arrive until the inauguration was over."

The trip through Indiana brought cheering crowds to every station and

the reception for Lincoln at Indianapolis was on an elaborate scale, quite beyond anything in the previous history of the Indiana capital. Governor Oliver P. Morton extended to President-elect Lincoln official greetings. Replying to Governor Morton's greetings Lincoln said, to give only some excerpts of his address, that: "If the Union of these States and the liberties of this people, shall be lost, it is but little to any one man of 52 years of age, but a great deal to the thirty millions of people who inhabit these

(Continued on Next Page)



Smith



McCulloch



Usher

Hoosiers in the Cabinet: Caleb B. Smith, Secretary of the Interior; Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury; John P. Usher, Secretary of Interior.

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(Continued from Page 37)



Lincoln photographed in 1861  
by C. S. German, Springfield, Ill.

United States, and to their posterity in all coming time." Evidently Lincoln was thinking of his 52d birthday which he would celebrate the next day on the 12th of February. Lincoln continued, "I appeal to you again to constantly bear in mind that with you, and not with politicians, not with presidents, not with office-seekers, but with you, is the question, shall the Union and shall the liberties of this country be preserved to the latest generations?"

Lincoln made two addresses at Indianapolis, one from the rear platform of his railway coach, and one from the balcony of the Bates House (Claypool Hotel). Spending the night at Indianapolis, Mr. Lincoln and his party continued on their journey to Cincinnati. Lawrenceburg, Ind., was the last town in which Abraham Lincoln spoke or visited in Indiana, and the press dispatches stated that he left, "amid salutes, music and tumultuous cheering." His parting words were,

"... if you, the people, are but true to yourselves and to the Constitution, there is but little harm I can do, thank God."

AS PRESIDENT of the United States Lincoln did not forget Indiana and its important role in saving the Union. The truth of the matter is that Governor Morton would not let him forget. The year that Lincoln took the oath of office there was considerable fear that civil war might break out in Kentucky, that Union men would be defeated and that Kentucky would join the Confederacy. This would place Indiana on the border line of the war. Morton wrote Lincoln long and pleading letters that are to be found in the Lincoln National Life Foundation archives:

"Our state is more exposed to the dangers arising from civil war in Kentucky than any other. It will be a sad day to you and to the nation when Kentucky drifts into revolution. The misfortune at Bull Run would be a mere trifle compared with it, and it can best be averted in my humble judgment by thoroughly arming the militia of Southern Indiana and stationing regular forces at proper points on the border."

We know the outcome. Kentucky was not lost to the Union and Indiana did not become a battleground.

Reversing the situation, in the election year of 1864 Lincoln called on Indiana for help. On Sept. 19, 1864, Lincoln wrote Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman a letter which is in the Foundation's archives, that:

"The state election of Indiana occurs on the 11th of October and the loss of it, to the friends of the government, would go far toward losing the whole Union cause. The bad ef-

fect upon the November election, and especially the giving the state government to those who will oppose the war in every possible way, are too much to risk, if it can possibly be avoided. Indiana is the only important state, voting in October, whose soldiers cannot vote in the field. Anything you can safely do to let her soldiers, or any part of them, go home and vote at the state election will be greatly in point."

While Indiana had within its boundaries a strong Copperhead movement, it never let the President down at the polls at election time.

Indiana poured troops into Union armies, furnished three members of Lincoln's Cabinet (not all at the same time), provided generals to lead Union armies, sent strong leaders to Congress and backed up Lincoln's philosophy of Union and democratic government "that we shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of earth." Lincoln, Indiana and the Union prevailed, although it has been said that the Civil War was the most tragic breakdown of democratic processes in history.

The Lincoln National Life Foundation files abound with Lincoln's references to Indiana men. On Dec. 4, 1862, Lincoln wrote, on a petition signed by 10 Indiana politicians recommending the appointment of John T. Morrison of Indiana for the position of quartermaster with the rank of captain that the "recommendation being by nearly all of the Indiana delegation, I wish the appointment made if can consistently be done." Another endorsement is found in a letter written by John S. Tarkington, father of the celebrated novelist, Booth Tarkington. John Tarkington wanted his uncle transferred to the regular Army with the rank of

captain. Lincoln's recommendation dated May 13, 1862, "Respectfully submitted (the letter) to the Secretary of War."

THE YEAR 1865 witnessed the colossal tragedy of our history—the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Springfield, Ill., was decided upon by the Lincoln family as the city where the President's remains were to be entombed. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, immediately began working on a schedule and itinerary for the numerous railroads that would be required to convey the body back to the Illinois capital. Many people were of the opinion that the funeral cortege would follow the route of 1861 when President-elect Lincoln journeyed from Springfield to Washington. Wild rumors, completely unfounded, had the funeral train visiting practically every village and town in the Midwest. Even Federal and state officials were often confused by conflicting orders and misleading information.

The citizens of Fort Wayne were even surprised to read a *Gazette Extra* handbill dated Thursday, April 20, 1865, announcing that "President Lincoln's remains were to stop at Fort Wayne as the funeral train would proceed to Springfield by way of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad." This rumor proved false. Even though Lincoln had been hanged in effigy on Oct. 2, 1860, within Fort Wayne's city limits, the residents were now eager to mourn the passing of the martyred President.

Stanton altered Lincoln's funeral itinerary by omitting Pittsburgh and Cincinnati and by detouring by way of Chicago, instead of going direct to Springfield from Indianapolis. Lincoln's remains reached Indianapolis

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This rare photograph is a scene at the Indiana Statehouse on April 30, 1865, when President Lincoln's body lay in state, en route to burial at Springfield.



An eight-horse team (only six show in photo) drew hearse carrying Lincoln's body from the train to the Indiana Statehouse and back again to the train.





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Sunday—The Indianapolis Star Magazine

## INDIANA AND THE CIVIL WAR ●

Continued from Page 38)



The Lincoln funeral car. It was built at the government railway shops, Alexandria, Va., and when it was designed, it was intended to be used as the President's private coach.

from Columbus, O., by way of the Columbus & Indianapolis Central Railway which is now a part of the Pennsylvania road. The first Indiana city to be reached en route to Indianapolis was Richmond. All day Sunday, April 30, the body was in Indianapolis on public view in the Indiana Statehouse. About midnight the coffin was closed for the next journey by way of a "Special" train en route to Chicago.

The "Special" en route to Chicago was made up at Indianapolis and consisted of five cars of the Michigan Railway Company, and two cars that had come through over the entire route. All the cars were appropriately and lavishly draped. Of the two cars named, one was the superb railway "carriage" built at the government railway shops in Alexandria, Va., and intended as the President's coach. It was in this car that the President's remains were placed. Throughout the entire trip the funeral train was preceded by a pilot engine. At every village and town along the Indiana route the grieving people gathered to watch the train go by. In many instances houses and depots were draped in black, salvos of artillery were fired, circulars of a memorial nature were distributed, choirs chanted, torches were lighted, evergreen arches were constructed, logs were burned, flags were draped and mourning badges were worn to express the grief of the country and townspeople who knew in advance that in most cases the train would not stop at their station.

The Indiana cities, towns and villages along the funeral route were: Richmond, Centerville, Cambridge City, Dublin, Lewisville, Coffin's Station, Ogden, Raysville, Knightstown, Charlottesville, Greenfield, Cumberland, Indianapolis, Zionsville, Whitestown, Lebanon, Thorntown, Clark's Hill, Stockwell, Lafayette, Battleground, Reynolds, Francisville, Medaryville, Lucerne, San Pierre, La Crosse, Michigan City, Lake, and Gibbons.

To quote Bishop Matthew Simpson, "Never was there in the history

of man such mourning as that which accompanied the funeral procession of Abraham Lincoln."

Indiana not only visibly displayed her grief at Lincoln's funeral but she went on record as viewing the death of Lincoln as a great national calamity. The Supreme Court of the State of Indiana on the morning of June 20, 1865, adopted a preamble and resolutions that were to be spread upon the records of the court. The first resolution follows:

"That the death of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, is a great national calamity, which nearly and profoundly touches the whole people; that his patient labor and ability, his gentleness and mercy, his unsectional patriotism, and his catholic humanity, are qualities which the country could at any time ill afford to lose; and which, in times like the present it will be difficult to replace."

These resolutions along with the remarks of Justice J. Frazer are to be found in Volume 24 of the *Indiana Reports for 1866*. This is perhaps the only time in Indiana's history that an Indiana court has memorialized the passing of a president of the United States.

THE JUDGES of the Indiana Supreme Court on June 20, 1865, referred to the trying "times like the present." Perhaps, like the people of Lincoln's generation, this generation, too, faces trying "times like the present" but we hear the voice of Lincoln ringing down to us today. What Lincoln said in a message to Congress on Dec. 1, 1862, is our challenge in this testing time:

"We cannot escape history. We . . . will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance, or insignificance, can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best, hope of earth."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★





# ABRAHAM LINCOLN

By DR. R. GERALD McMURTRY

All photographs courtesy Lincoln National Life Foundation

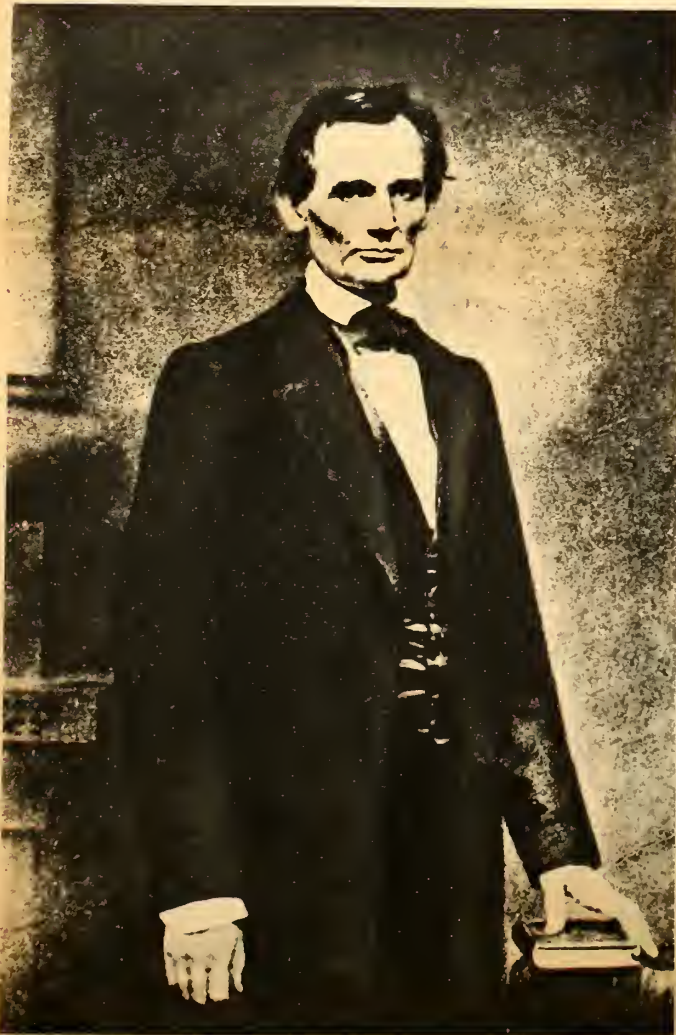


FOR MANY years Abraham Lincoln's residence in Indiana was often appeared in Illinois where he trod the

# INDIANA AND THE

By DR. R. GERALD McMURTRY

All photographs courtesy Lincoln National Life Foundation



This photograph of Abraham Lincoln was made by Mathew B. Brady, photographer during the Civil War era, Feb. 25, 1860, before Lincoln's Cooper Union Address.

Sunday—The Indianapolis Star Magazine

FOR MANY years Abraham Lincoln's residence in Indiana was often called "the missing link in Lincoln's life." Until recently historians and biographers have written in a rather vague way, of those 14 years—those long growing years of his boyhood and youth. These writers related how his angel mother died when young Abe was only 9; how father Thomas Lincoln returned to Kentucky to marry his old sweetheart, Sally Bush Johnson, a widow burdened with a family that was fatherless; how Abe made a long trip by flatboat to New Orleans; how Abe studied books and took long walks across the country; how Abe read the *Life of Washington* by Weems; how Abe went to "Forest College" and secured a defective education, and how schoolmaster Azel Dorsey prophesied that Abe was destined to succeed somehow.

These dim and somewhat legendary stories have been repeated time and time again. Yet for some unexplained reason only careful students of history appreciated the great contribution Indiana made to Abraham Lincoln between the years 1816 and 1830. Fortunately, in 1959 the Indiana Historical Society and the firm of Appleton-Century-Crofts Inc., published Dr. Louis A. Warren's exhaustive work entitled *Lincoln's Youth—Indiana Years—Seven to Twenty-one—1816-1830* which is based on authentic sources and documentary evidence. This scholarly work has been widely distributed and has at last provided the public with a much needed lesson in history. No longer are people of the opinion that Lincoln was born in Kentucky and in some miraculous way

appeared in Illinois where he trod the path of destiny.

In truth, the state of Indiana looms large in the biography of Abraham Lincoln and in a sense Lincoln looms large in the history of Indiana. Not only was Lincoln associated with the early history of the state, but he was born in Kentucky the same year, 1809, that Indiana was set apart from Illinois as a separate territory.

LINCOLN GREW up in the State of Indiana, coming to it at the time the state was established in (Dec. 11) 1816, and remained in it until 1830—the year the Society of Indiana Pioneers set apart as the concluding year of the pioneer era. When Lincoln came to Indiana as a lad of 7 years there were but 15 counties in the state. When Lincoln left the Hoosier state, he was a grown man, 6 feet 4 inches tall and weighing 200 pounds. In the meantime Indiana had grown up and in 1830 58 counties had been established. In 1816 there were but 63,000 people in Indiana, but by the year 1830 there were 341,582 inhabitants.

Indiana was sparsely settled in 1816 but we must not conclude that the Thomas Lincoln family were the first settlers in the region where they decided to make their home. The year before they arrived (1815) 318 men paid taxes in Perry County, the county in which the Lincolns settled. On a Fourth of July celebration in 1815 on the banks of the Wabash River, 150 people were present—all living from 6 to 12 miles from the New Harmony settlement.

About 40 miles east of Thomas Lincoln's cabin was located the state capital of Corydon. About the same

SEPTEMBER 9, 1962



# CIVIL WAR



## *The great importance of the Hoosier state to the life and career of the Civil War President is emphasized by a famous student of Abraham Lincoln*

distance west of the Lincoln home was Evansville, which town as early as June 21, 1814, advertised the sale of lots. Their sales publicity was to the effect that "Evansville is in the midst of a flourishing settlement." Princeton, a community to the northwest of Lincoln country, also advertised a lot sale in 1814.

When Abraham Lincoln moved to Indiana practically all of the inhabitants were then living within 100 miles of the Ohio River, and the area to which Lincoln and his parents moved was primarily a Kentucky colony. Oddly enough, Thomas Lincoln was not the first Lincoln to establish a home in southern Indiana. Austin and David Lincoln, two sons of Hannaniah Lincoln of Hardin County, Kentucky, were the first of the family to establish homes in this region. Perhaps it was slavery, faulty Kentucky land titles and the sons of Hannaniah Lincoln that caused the father of the future 16th President to decide to move to the territory that was about to become a state.

There are a lot of hind-sights in history; however, it is perhaps impossible to exaggerate the significance of the crossing of the Ohio River by the Lincolns in 1816. While the Ohio was affectionately called *La Belle Riviere* and acclaimed by many to be the most beautiful river in the world, it was a boundary line between slavery and freedom, between two warring institutions that would rend the nation asunder in the 1860s.

If Lincoln had grown up in the state of Kentucky where slavery was tolerated, it is doubtful if he would have been prepared for leadership in the great struggle that was to follow

One writer has even suggested that a canvas depicting Lincoln crossing the Ohio deserves a place next to that inspirational study of George Washington crossing the Delaware.

LINCOLN LEFT Indiana in a family caravan of 13 people in early March of 1830 en route to Illinois. There is an account in the files of the Lincoln National Life Foundation of a portion of that journey incorporated in a letter written by Peter Smith to J. Warren Keifer of Springfield, O., dated July 17, 1860. Presidential candidate Lincoln told Peter Smith the details of his crossing the Wabash River at Vincennes:

"I crossed the Wabash at Vincennes and the river being high the road on the low prairie was covered with water a half mile at a stretch and the water covered with ice—the only means by which I could keep the road was by observing the stakes on each side placed as guides when the water is over the road. When I came to the water I put a favorite fice dog I had along into the wagon and got in myself and whipped up my oxen and started into the water to pick my way across as well as I could—after breaking the ice and wading about ¼ of a mile my little dog jumped out of the wagon and the ice being thin he broke through and was struggling for life. I could not bear to lose my dog and I jumped out of the wagon and waded waist deep in the ice and water—got hold of him and helped him out and saved him."

Peter Smith asked Lincoln if he was barefoot. Lincoln replied:

"About thirty years ago I did drive my father's ox wagon and team moving my father's family through your

town of Lawrenceville (Ill.) and I was afoot but not barefoot. In my young days I frequently went barefooted but on that occasion I had on a substantial pair of shoes—it was a cold day in March and I never went barefooted in cold weather."

Destiny beckoned to Lincoln as he moved to Illinois. Senator Albert J. Beveridge in his biography of Lincoln related that in that Lincoln-Hanks-Hall clan of 13 people moving by ox team to Illinois only young Abraham knew of that great conflict of reason and eloquence—the Hayne-Webster debate which was the pinnacle of conflict of that great battle over slavery and states rights then raging in the Senate.

When Lincoln left Indiana in 1830 "he was a Whig at heart—ready to enlist, as he quickly did, under the banner of the gallant, dashing 'Harry of the West' (Henry Clay)." Certainly, Indiana can take credit for molding Lincoln's political thinking—and Lincoln's political philosophy was and is today a pretty important factor in United States and world history.

LINCOLN RETURNED to Indiana 14 years later in October, 1844. He came "thinking he might carry the State of Indiana for Mr. Clay." While on this visit he went back into the neighborhood where he was raised—where his mother and sister were buried. He visited such places as Vincennes, Rockport, Evansville and Gentryville. Not one of his speeches has been preserved but there is little doubt about his topic. The topic was protection—a protective tariff. On May 12, 1860, Lincoln wrote Dr. Edward Wallace: "In the days of Henry

(Continued on Page 35)



Dr. McMurtry

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, outstanding authority on Abraham Lincoln, is director of The Lincoln National Life Foundation, Fort Wayne, and editor of Lincoln Lore.

All his life he has been steeped in Lincoln tradition. He was born at Elizabethtown, Ky., where Lincoln's parents first went to housekeeping; some of his relatives lived on the Knob Creek farm once owned by the Lincolns when Abraham was a boy. Dr. McMurtry's own boyhood home was on the same lot in Elizabethtown where lived Thomas Lincoln's second wife.

Dr. McMurtry was graduated from Centre College in 1929 and, in 1958, received the degree of Litt.D. Iowa Wesleyan College honored him with LL.D. degree in 1946. Two years after his graduation from Centre, he became librarian of Lincoln National Life Foundation, serving in that capacity until 1935.

In 1937 he became director of the Department of Lincolniana at the Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tenn. He is former editor of the Lincoln Herald, devoted exclusively to Lincolniana. He is author of numerous monographs for magazines, books and pamphlets.

Among his many valuable contributions has been the gathering at Lincoln Memorial University of the largest collection of literature pertaining to the Civil War period to be found in any institution of higher learning.

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## INDIANA AND THE CIVIL WAR ●

(Continued from Page 33)



Cabin built by Thomas Lincoln and his son, Abraham, in Indiana in 1829. It was never occupied by the Lincolns, though usually identified as Lincoln home.

Clay I was a Henry Clay-tariff man, and my views have undergone no material change upon that subject." Lincoln always had great admiration for Henry Clay. In 1861 Lincoln wrote a Springfield citizen that "during my whole political life . . . I have loved and revered (Clay) as a teacher and a leader."

HIS SECOND visit to Indiana was in September (17th) of 1855, when Lincoln traveled by rail to Cincinnati, O. From Bloomington, Ill., Lincoln traveled by way of Chicago, Michigan City, Lafayette and Indianapolis. The trip required about 24 hours. Lincoln went to Cincinnati as counsel in the McCormick Reaper Case, where he was curtly dismissed by Edwin M. Stanton, counsel for the defense (Manny interests), which proved to be one of the most humiliating episodes in his entire legal career. On Sept. 26, Lincoln made the statement that, "I have nothing against the city, but things have so happened here as to make it undesirable for me ever to return . . ." We have no idea as to Lincoln's route of travel homeward. There are traditions about a stage-coach trip Lincoln made with Col. Tom Nelson and Bayless Hanna from Indianapolis to Terre Haute, but the chronology of events do not dovetail well with established facts.

On Sept. 19, 1859, Lincoln appeared for the first time in his life before a large Indiana audience. Indiana's capital was an important city in his Columbus, Dayton, Hamilton, Cincinnati and Indianapolis itinerary. The theme of Lincoln's speeches at this time was a continuation of those questions which had provoked the Lincoln-Douglas debates a year before. Lincoln still opposed Stephen A. Douglas and his interpretation of the motivation of the Founding Fathers in regard to slavery, when they drafted the Constitution. Mrs. Lincoln and one of the sons, perhaps Robert, accompanied Lincoln to Indianapolis. They left Cincinnati on Monday, Sept. 19, at 10:30 a.m. and they arrived in Indianapolis in the afternoon. They stayed at the American House.

That evening, Lincoln spoke before a large audience at the Masonic Hall for nearly two hours. The *Indianapolis Atlas* of Sept. 19, 1858, reported Lincoln's speech. He said that: "Appearing at the capital of this now great State, and traveling through a good portion of it in coming from Cincinnati, had combined to revive his recollection of the earlier years of his life."

He continued, "Away back in the fall of 1816, when he was in his eighth year, his father brought him over from the neighboring State of Kentucky and settled in the State of Indiana, and he grew up to his present enormous beight on our own good soil of Indiana."

This was a meeting marked with good fellowship, frequently interrupted by cheers and laughter. When Lincoln closed his remarks he sat down amid great applause. According to the *Illinois State Journal* of Sept. 22, 1859, Lincoln is said to have made two speeches in Indiana on his Ohio-Indiana trip. Efforts to find the other speech, or even a reference to the time and place of delivery have been unsuccessful.

There is a tradition that Lincoln went home by way of Terre Haute because his son Robert had been bitten by a dog, and that Indiana city had a famous "Mad Stone." An item which appeared in the *Terre Haute Journal* of 1866 stated that a lady of that city "is in possession of a valuable mad-stone and it has effected many remarkable cures of dog and snake bites. Hundreds of persons, some from great distances have tested its efficacy in such cases." Certainly evidence of a mad stone at Terre Haute is established. But more evidence is needed to establish the fact of Lincoln's visit there in the early fall of 1859.

ONLY RECENTLY has evidence been discovered that Lincoln traveled through Indiana in February of 1860 en route to New York to deliver his famous Cooper Union address. A news item of but six lines which appeared in *Dawson's Daily News* of Fort

(Continued on Page 37)



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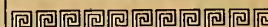
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(Continued from Page 35)

Wayne Ind. on Thursday, Feb. 23, 1860, revealed that "Hon. Abe Lincoln and wife came from the west this morning at 1 o'clock on the T. (Toledo) W. (Wabash) & W. (Western) R. R. and changing cars at this city went east. 'Old Abe' looked like as if his pattern had been a mighty ugly one." This news story is of considerable significance because it not only adds to our knowledge of the route Lincoln traveled to New York City but it reveals some incorrect assumptions about his activities prior to "the speech which made Lincoln President."

The *Dawson Daily News* reporter was in error in stating that Mrs. Lincoln accompanied her husband. The lady in question was Mrs. Stephen Smith who had with her a son named Dudley. Her husband was a brother of Clark M. Smith who married Ann Todd, a sister of Mrs. Lincoln. Mrs. Smith was en route to her girlhood home in Philadelphia, and Lincoln volunteered to assist her with her baggage as she was traveling with a small child.

The T.W. & W. train arrived in Fort Wayne one hour late on Thursday, Feb. 23, but still there was time to "change cars" at 1:12 a.m. aboard the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Road. Lincoln arrived in New York,

by way of Philadelphia, on Saturday, Feb. 25, in ample time to deliver his great address on Monday, Feb. 27.

En route home Lincoln left New York by the Erie Railroad on Monday, March 12, and changed trains at Toledo on Tuesday, March 13, boarding the T.W. & W. which passed through Fort Wayne at 5:20 p.m. the same day. Apparently only Fort Wayne's *Dawson's Daily News* reported this hurried trip made by Lincoln as he passed through Indiana, in February of 1860.

THE NEXT time Lincoln visited Indiana he came in a blaze of glory. He was on his way to Washington to be inaugurated President of the United States. His inaugural train entered Indiana at State Line on Feb. 11, 1861. The inaugural train made a "whistle stop" tour through all the Indiana towns, except Indianapolis. The towns and cities through which Lincoln traveled were State Line, Lafayette, Thorntown, Lebanon, Zionsville, Indianapolis, Greensburg, Shelbyville, Morris and Lawrenceburg.

The President-elect made rear platform speeches or appearances in the Indiana towns and at Thorntown he started to tell an anecdote to illustrate a point. The train started to move before he got to the place, where the laugh came in, and the people were

left to wonder what the meaning might be. Once the train arrived in Lebanon, Lincoln was informed by the people there that the Thorntown folks had followed the train on foot to hear the rest of the story. The story was about a candidate's horse that stopped to bite every bush and the candidate arrived after the convention was over. So Lincoln said that "if he made a stump speech at every railway station he would not arrive until the inauguration was over."

The trip through Indiana brought cheering crowds to every station and

the reception for Lincoln at Indianapolis was on an elaborate scale, quite beyond anything in the previous history of the Indiana capital. Governor Oliver P. Morton extended to President-elect Lincoln official greetings. Replying to Governor Morton's greetings Lincoln said, to give only some excerpts of his address, that: "If the Union of these States and the liberties of this people, shall be lost, it is but little to any one man of 52 years of age, but a great deal to the thirty millions of people who inhabit these

(Continued on Next Page)



Smith



McCulloch



Usher

Hoosiers in the Cabinet: Caleb B. Smith, Secretary of the Interior; Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury; John P. Usher, Secretary of Interior.

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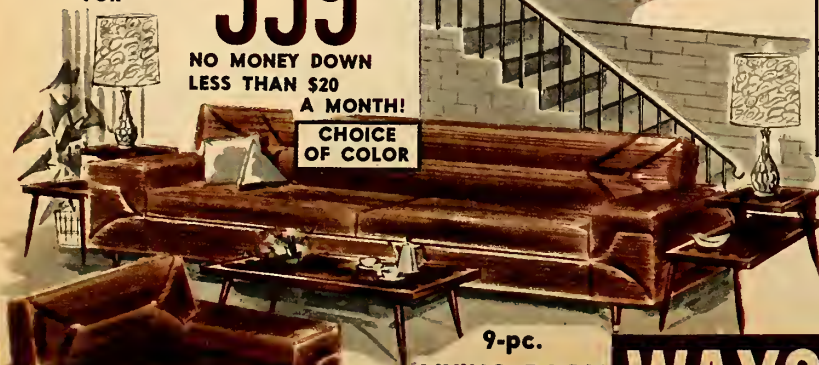
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(Continued from Page 37)



Lincoln photographed in 1861  
by C. S. German, Springfield, Ill.

United States, and to their posterity in all coming time." Evidently Lincoln was thinking of his 52d birthday which he would celebrate the next day on the 12th of February. Lincoln continued, "I appeal to you again to constantly bear in mind that with you, and not with politicians, not with presidents, not with office-seekers, but with you, is the question, shall the Union and shall the liberties of this country be preserved to the latest generations?"

Lincoln made two addresses at Indianapolis, one from the rear platform of his railway coach, and one from the balcony of the Bates House (Claypool Hotel). Spending the night at Indianapolis, Mr. Lincoln and his party continued on their journey to Cincinnati. Lawrenceburg, Ind., was the last town in which Abraham Lincoln spoke or visited in Indiana, and the press dispatches stated that he left, "amid salutes, music and tumultuous cheering." His parting words were,

"... if you, the people, are but true to yourselves and to the Constitution, there is but little harm I can do, thank God."

AS PRESIDENT of the United States Lincoln did not forget Indiana and its important role in saving the Union. The truth of the matter is that Governor Morton would not let him forget. The year that Lincoln took the oath of office there was considerable fear that civil war might break out in Kentucky, that Union men would be defeated and that Kentucky would join the Confederacy. This would place Indiana on the border line of the war. Morton wrote Lincoln long and pleading letters that are to be found in the Lincoln National Life Foundation archives:

"Our state is more exposed to the dangers arising from civil war in Kentucky than any other. It will be a sad day to you and to the nation when Kentucky drifts into revolution. The misfortune at Bull Run would be a mere trifle compared with it, and it can best be averted in my humble judgment by thoroughly arming the militia of Southern Indiana and stationing regular forces at proper points on the border."

We know the outcome. Kentucky was not lost to the Union and Indiana did not become a battleground.

Reversing the situation, in the election year of 1864 Lincoln called on Indiana for help. On Sept. 19, 1864, Lincoln wrote Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman a letter which is in the Foundation's archives, that:

"The state election of Indiana occurs on the 11th of October and the loss of it, to the friends of the government, would go far toward losing the whole Union cause. The bad ef-

fect upon the November election, and especially the giving the state government to those who will oppose the war in every possible way, are too much to risk, if it can possibly be avoided. Indiana is the only important state, voting in October, whose soldiers cannot vote in the field. Anything you can safely do to let her soldiers, or any part of them, go home and vote at the state election will be greatly in point."

While Indiana had within its boundaries a strong Copperhead movement, it never let the President down at the polls at election time.

Indiana poured troops into Union armies, furnished three members of Lincoln's Cabinet (not all at the same time), provided generals to lead Union armies, sent strong leaders to Congress and backed up Lincoln's philosophy of Union and democratic government "that we shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of earth." Lincoln, Indiana and the Union prevailed, although it has been said that the Civil War was the most tragic breakdown of democratic processes in history.

The Lincoln National Life Foundation files abound with Lincoln's references to Indiana men. On Dec. 4, 1862, Lincoln wrote, on a petition signed by 10 Indiana politicians recommending the appointment of John T. Morrison of Indiana for the position of quartermaster with the rank of captain that the "recommendation being by nearly all of the Indiana delegation, I wish the appointment made if can consistently be done." Another endorsement is found in a letter written by John S. Tarkington, father of the celebrated novelist, Booth Tarkington. John Tarkington wanted his uncle transferred to the regular Army with the rank of

captain. Lincoln's recommendation dated May 13, 1862, "Respectfully submitted (the letter) to the Secretary of War."

THE YEAR 1865 witnessed the colossal tragedy of our history—the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Springfield, Ill., was decided upon by the Lincoln family as the city where the President's remains were to be entombed. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, immediately began working on a schedule and itinerary for the numerous railroads that would be required to convey the body back to the Illinois capital. Many people were of the opinion that the funeral cortege would follow the route of 1861 when President-elect Lincoln journeyed from Springfield to Washington. Wild rumors, completely unfounded, had the funeral train visiting practically every village and town in the Midwest. Even Federal and state officials were often confused by conflicting orders and misleading information.

The citizens of Fort Wayne were even surprised to read a *Gazette Extra* handbill dated Thursday, April 20, 1865, announcing that "President Lincoln's remains were to stop at Fort Wayne as the funeral train would proceed to Springfield by way of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad." This rumor proved false. Even though Lincoln had been hanged in effigy on Oct. 2, 1860, within Fort Wayne's city limits, the residents were now eager to mourn the passing of the martyred President.

Stanton altered Lincoln's funeral itinerary by omitting Pittsburgh and Cincinnati and by detouring by way of Chicago, instead of going direct to Springfield from Indianapolis. Lincoln's remains reached Indianapolis

(Continued on Page 40)



This rare photograph is a scene at the Indiana Statehouse on April 30, 1865, when President Lincoln's body lay in state, en route to burial at Springfield.



An eight-horse team (only six show in photo) drew hearse carrying Lincoln's body from the train to the Indiana Statehouse and back again to the train.



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## INDIANA AND THE CIVIL WAR ●

Continued from Page 38)



The Lincoln funeral car. It was built at the government railway shops, Alexandria, Va., and when it was designed, it was intended to be used as the President's private coach.

from Columbus, O., by way of the Columbus & Indianapolis Central Railway which is now a part of the Pennsylvania road. The first Indiana city to be reached en route to Indianapolis was Richmond. All day Sunday, April 30, the body was in Indianapolis on public view in the Indiana Statehouse. About midnight the coffin was closed for the next journey by way of a "Special" train en route to Chicago.

The "Special" en route to Chicago was made up at Indianapolis and consisted of five cars of the Michigan Railway Company, and two cars that had come through over the entire route. All the cars were appropriately and lavishly draped. Of the two cars named, one was the superb railway "carriage" built at the government railway shops in Alexandria, Va., and intended as the President's coach. It was in this car that the President's remains were placed. Throughout the entire trip the funeral train was preceded by a pilot engine. At every village and town along the Indiana route the grieving people gathered to watch the train go by. In many instances houses and depots were draped in black, salvos of artillery were fired, circulars of a memorial nature were distributed, choirs chanted, torches were lighted, evergreen arches were constructed, logs were burned, flags were draped and mourning badges were worn to express the grief of the country and townspeople who knew in advance that in most cases the train would not stop at their station.

The Indiana cities, towns and villages along the funeral route were: Richmond, Centerville, Cambridge City, Duhlin, Lewisville, Coffin's Station, Ogdens, Raysville, Knightstown, Charlottesville, Greenfield, Cumberland, Indianapolis, Zionsville, Whitestown, Lebanon, Thorntown, Clark's Hill, Stockwell, Lafayette, Battleground, Reynolds, Francisville, Medaryville, Lucerne, San Pierre, La Crosse, Michigan City, Lake, and Gibbons.

To quote Bishop Matthew Simpson, "Never was there in the history

of man such mourning as that which accompanied the funeral procession of Abraham Lincoln."

Indiana not only visibly displayed her grief at Lincoln's funeral but she went on record as viewing the death of Lincoln as a great national calamity. The Supreme Court of the State of Indiana on the morning of June 20, 1865, adopted a preamble and resolutions that were to be spread upon the records of the court. The first resolution follows:

"That the death of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, is a great national calamity, which nearly and profoundly touches the whole people; that his patient labor and ability, his gentleness and mercy, his unsectional patriotism, and his catholic humanity, are qualities which the country could at any time ill afford to lose; and which, in times like the present it will be difficult to replace."

These resolutions along with the remarks of Justice J. Frazer are to be found in Volume 24 of the *Indiana Reports for 1866*. This is perhaps the only time in Indiana's history that an Indiana court has memorialized the passing of a president of the United States.

THE JUDGES of the Indiana Supreme Court on June 20, 1865, referred to the trying "times like the present." Perhaps, like the people of Lincoln's generation, this generation, too, faces trying "times like the present" but we hear the voice of Lincoln ringing down to us today. What Lincoln said in a message to Congress on Dec. 1, 1862, is our challenge in this testing time:

"We cannot escape history. We . . . will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance, or insignificance, can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best, hope of earth."

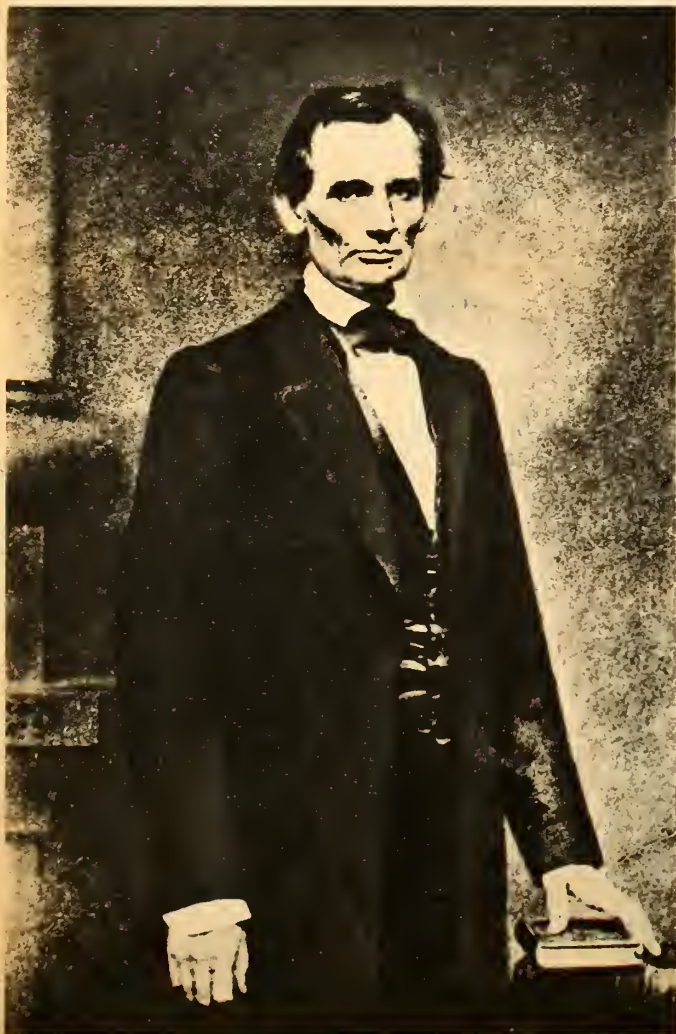
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# INDIANA AND THE

By **DR. R. GERALD McMURTRY**

All photographs courtesy Lincoln National Life Foundation



This photograph of Abraham Lincoln was made by Mathew B. Brady, photographer during the Civil War era, Feb. 25, 1860, before Lincoln's Cooper Union Address.

**F**OR MANY years Abraham Lincoln's residence in Indiana was often called "the missing link in Lincoln's life." Until recently historians and biographers have written in a rather vague way, of those 14 years—those long growing years of his boyhood and youth. These writers related how his angel mother died when young Abe was only 9; how father Thomas Lincoln returned to Kentucky to marry his old sweetheart, Sally Bush Johnson, a widow burdened with a family that was fatherless; how Abe made a long trip by flatboat to New Orleans; how Abe studied books and took long walks across the country; how Abe read the *Life of Washington* by Weems; how Abe went to "Forest College" and secured a defective education, and how schoolmaster Azel Dorsey prophesied that Abe was destined to succeed somehow.

These dim and somewhat legendary stories have been repeated time and time again. Yet for some unexplained reason only careful students of history appreciated the great contribution Indiana made to Abraham Lincoln between the years 1816 and 1830. Fortunately, in 1959 the Indiana Historical Society and the firm of Appleton-Century-Crofts Inc., published Dr. Louis A. Warren's exhaustive work entitled *Lincoln's Youth—Indiana Years—Seven to Twenty-one—1816-1830* which is based on authentic sources and documentary evidence. This scholarly work has been widely distributed and has at last provided the public with a much needed lesson in history. No longer are people of the opinion that Lincoln was born in Kentucky and in some miraculous way

appeared in Illinois where he trod the path of destiny.

In truth, the state of Indiana looms large in the biography of Abraham Lincoln and in a sense Lincoln looms large in the history of Indiana. Not only was Lincoln associated with the early history of the state, but he was born in Kentucky the same year, 1809, that Indiana was set apart from Illinois as a separate territory.

**LINCOLN GREW** up in the State of Indiana, coming to it at the time the state was established in (Dec. 11) 1816, and remained in it until 1830—the year the Society of Indiana Pioneers set apart as the concluding year of the pioneer era. When Lincoln came to Indiana as a lad of 7 years there were but 15 counties in the state. When Lincoln left the Hoosier state, he was a grown man, 6 feet 4 inches tall and weighing 200 pounds. In the meantime Indiana had grown up and in 1830 58 counties had been established. In 1816 there were but 63,000 people in Indiana, but by the year 1830 there were 341,582 inhabitants.

Indiana was sparsely settled in 1816 but we must not conclude that the Thomas Lincoln family were the first settlers in the region where they decided to make their home. The year before they arrived (1815) 318 men paid taxes in Perry County, the county in which the Lincolns settled. On a Fourth of July celebration in 1815 on the banks of the Wabash River, 150 people were present—all living from 6 to 12 miles from the New Harmony settlement.

About 40 miles east of Thomas Lincoln's cabin was located the state capital of Corydon. About the same

SEPTEMBER 9, 1962



# CIVIL WAR



*The great importance of the Hoosier state to the life and career of the*

*Civil War President is emphasized by a famous student of Abraham Lincoln*

distance west of the Lincoln home was Evansville, which town as early as June 21, 1814, advertised the sale of lots. Their sales publicity was to the effect that "Evansville is in the midst of a flourishing settlement." Princeton, a community to the northwest of Lincoln country, also advertised a lot sale in 1814.

When Abraham Lincoln moved to Indiana practically all of the inhabitants were then living within 100 miles of the Ohio River, and the area to which Lincoln and his parents moved was primarily a Kentucky colony. Oddly enough, Thomas Lincoln was not the first Lincoln to establish a home in southern Indiana. Austin and David Lincoln, two sons of Hannaniah Lincoln of Hardin County, Kentucky, were the first of the family to establish homes in this region. Perhaps it was slavery, faulty Kentucky land titles and the sons of Hannaniah Lincoln that caused the father of the future 16th President to decide to move to the territory that was about to become a state.

There are a lot of hind-sights in history; however, it is perhaps impossible to exaggerate the significance of the crossing of the Ohio River by the Lincolns in 1816. While the Ohio was affectionately called *La Belle Riviere* and acclaimed by many to be the most beautiful river in the world, it was a boundary line between slavery and freedom, between two warring institutions that would rend the nation asunder in the 1860s.

If Lincoln had grown up in the state of Kentucky where slavery was tolerated, it is doubtful if he would have been prepared for leadership in the great struggle that was to follow

One writer has even suggested that a canvas depicting Lincoln crossing the Ohio deserves a place next to that inspirational study of George Washington crossing the Delaware.

LINCOLN LEFT Indiana in a family caravan of 13 people in early March of 1830 en route to Illinois. There is an account in the files of the Lincoln National Life Foundation of a portion of that journey incorporated in a letter written by Peter Smith to J. Warren Keifer of Springfield, O., dated July 17, 1860. Presidential candidate Lincoln told Peter Smith the details of his crossing the Wabash River at Vincennes:

"I crossed the Wabash at Vincennes and the river being high the road on the low prairie was covered with water a half mile at a stretch and the water covered with ice—the only means by which I could keep the road was by observing the stakes on each side placed as guides when the water is over the road. When I came to the water I put a favorite fice dog I had along into the wagon and got in myself and whipped up my oxen and started into the water to pick my way across as well as I could—after breaking the ice and wading about ¼ of a mile my little dog jumped out of the wagon and the ice being thin he broke through and was struggling for life. I could not bear to lose my dog and I jumped out of the wagon and waded waist deep in the ice and water—got hold of him and helped him out and saved him."

Peter Smith asked Lincoln if he was barefoot. Lincoln replied:

"About thirty years ago I did drive my father's ox wagon and team moving my father's family through your

town of Lawrenceville (Ill.) and I was afoot but not barefoot. In my young days I frequently went barefooted but on that occasion I had on a substantial pair of shoes—it was a cold day in March and I never went barefooted in cold weather."

Destiny beckoned to Lincoln as he moved to Illinois. Senator Albert J. Beveridge in his biography of Lincoln related that in that Lincoln-Hanks-Hall clan of 13 people moving by ox team to Illinois only young Abraham knew of that great conflict of reason and eloquence—the Hayne-Webster debate which was the pinnacle of conflict of that great battle over slavery and states rights then raging in the Senate.

When Lincoln left Indiana in 1830 "he was a Whig at heart—ready to enlist, as he quickly did, under the banner of the gallant, dashing 'Harry of the West' (Henry Clay)." Certainly, Indiana can take credit for molding Lincoln's political thinking—and Lincoln's political philosophy was and is today a pretty important factor in United States and world history.

LINCOLN RETURNED to Indiana 14 years later in October, 1844. He came "thinking he might carry the State of Indiana for Mr. Clay." While on this visit he went back into the neighborhood where he was raised—where his mother and sister were buried. He visited such places as Vincennes, Rockport, Evansville and Gentryville. Not one of his speeches has been preserved but there is little doubt about his topic. The topic was protection—a protective tariff. On May 12, 1860, Lincoln wrote Dr. Edward Wallace: "In the days of Henry

(Continued on Page 35)



Dr. McMurtry

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, outstanding authority on Abraham Lincoln, is director of The Lincoln National Life Foundation, Fort Wayne, and editor of Lincoln Lore.

All his life he has been steeped in Lincoln tradition. He was born at Elizabethtown, Ky., where Lincoln's parents first went to housekeeping; some of his relatives lived on the Knob Creek farm once owned by the Lincolns when Abraham was a boy. Dr. McMurtry's own boyhood home was on the same lot in Elizabethtown where lived Thomas Lincoln's second wife.

Dr. McMurtry was graduated from Centre College in 1929 and, in 1958, received the degree of Litt.D. Iowa Wesleyan College honored him with LL.D. degree in 1946. Two years after his graduation from Centre, he became librarian of Lincoln National Life Foundation, serving in that capacity until 1935.

In 1937 he became director of the Department of Lincolniana at the Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tenn. He is former editor of the Lincoln Herald, devoted exclusively to Lincolniana. He is author of numerous monographs for magazines, books and pamphlets.

Among his many valuable contributions has been the gathering at Lincoln Memorial University of the largest collection of literature pertaining to the Civil War period to be found in any institution of higher learning.

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## INDIANA AND THE CIVIL WAR ●

(Continued from Page 33)



Cabin built by Thomas Lincoln and his son, Abraham, in Indiana in 1829. It was never occupied by the Lincolns, though usually identified as Lincoln home.

Clay I was a Henry Clay-tariff man, and my views have undergone no material change upon that subject." Lincoln always had great admiration for Henry Clay. In 1861 Lincoln wrote a Springfield citizen that "during my whole political life . . . I have loved and revered (Clay) as a teacher and a leader."

HIS SECOND visit to Indiana was in September (17th) of 1855, when Lincoln traveled by rail to Cincinnati, O. From Bloomington, Ill., Lincoln traveled by way of Chicago, Michigan City, Lafayette and Indianapolis. The trip required about 24 hours. Lincoln went to Cincinnati as counsel in the McCormick Reaper Case, where he was curtly dismissed by Edwin M. Stanton, counsel for the defense (Manny interests), which proved to be one of the most humiliating episodes in his entire legal career. On Sept. 26, Lincoln made the statement that, "I have nothing against the city, but things have so happened here as to make it undesirable for me ever to return . . ." We have no idea as to Lincoln's route of travel homeward. There are traditions about a stage-coach trip Lincoln made with Col. Tom Nelson and Bayless Hanna from Indianapolis to Terre Haute, but the chronology of events do not dovetail well with established facts.

On Sept. 19, 1859, Lincoln appeared for the first time in his life before a large Indiana audience. Indiana's capital was an important city in his Columbus, Dayton, Hamilton, Cincinnati and Indianapolis itinerary. The theme of Lincoln's speeches at this time was a continuation of those questions which had provoked the Lincoln-Douglas debates a year before. Lincoln still opposed Stephen A. Douglas and his interpretation of the motivation of the Founding Fathers in regard to slavery, when they drafted the Constitution. Mrs. Lincoln and one of the sons, perhaps Robert, accompanied Lincoln to Indianapolis. They left Cincinnati on Monday, Sept. 19, at 10:30 a.m. and they arrived in Indianapolis in the afternoon. They stayed at the American House.

That evening, Lincoln spoke before a large audience at the Masonic Hall for nearly two hours. The *Indianapolis Atlas* of Sept. 19, 1858, reported Lincoln's speech. He said that: "Appearing at the capital of this now great State, and traveling through a good portion of it in coming from Cincinnati, had combined to revive his recollection of the earlier years of his life."

He continued, "Away back in the fall of 1816, when he was in his eighth year, his father brought him over from the neighboring State of Kentucky and settled in the State of Indiana, and he grew up to his present enormous height on our own good soil of Indiana."

This was a meeting marked with good fellowship, frequently interrupted by cheers and laughter. When Lincoln closed his remarks he sat down amid great applause. According to the *Illinois State Journal* of Sept. 22, 1859, Lincoln is said to have made two speeches in Indiana on his Ohio-Indiana trip. Efforts to find the other speech, or even a reference to the time and place of delivery have been unsuccessful.

There is a tradition that Lincoln went home by way of Terre Haute because his son Robert had been bitten by a dog, and that Indiana city had a famous "Mad Stone." An item which appeared in the *Terre Haute Journal* of 1866 stated that a lady of that city "is in possession of a valuable madstone and it has effected many remarkable cures of dog and snake bites. Hundreds of persons, some from great distances have tested its efficacy in such cases." Certainly evidence of a mad stone at Terre Haute is established. But more evidence is needed to establish the fact of Lincoln's visit there in the early fall of 1859.

ONLY RECENTLY has evidence been discovered that Lincoln traveled through Indiana in February of 1860 en route to New York to deliver his famous Cooper Union address. A news item of but six lines which appeared in *Dawson's Daily News* of Fort

(Continued on Page 37)

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(Continued from Page 35)

Wayne Ind. on Thursday, Feb. 23, 1860, revealed that "Hon. Abe Lincoln and wife came from the west this morning at 1 o'clock on the T. (Toledo) W. (Wabash) & W. (Western) R. R. and changing cars at this city went east. 'Old Abe' looked like as if his pattern had been a mighty ugly one." This news story is of considerable significance because it not only adds to our knowledge of the route Lincoln traveled to New York City but it reveals some incorrect assumptions about his activities prior to "the speech which made Lincoln President."

The Dawson Daily News reporter was in error in stating that Mrs. Lincoln accompanied her husband. The lady in question was Mrs. Stephen Smith who had with her a son named Dudley. Her husband was a brother of Clark M. Smith who married Ann Todd, a sister of Mrs. Lincoln. Mrs. Smith was en route to her girlhood home in Philadelphia, and Lincoln volunteered to assist her with her baggage as she was traveling with a small child.

The T.W. & W. train arrived in Fort Wayne one hour late on Thursday, Feb. 23, but still there was time to "change cars" at 1:12 a.m. aboard the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Road. Lincoln arrived in New York,

by way of Philadelphia, on Saturday, Feb. 25, in ample time to deliver his great address on Monday, Feb. 27.

En route home Lincoln left New York by the Erie Railroad on Monday, March 12, and changed trains at Toledo on Tuesday, March 13, boarding the T.W. & W. which passed through Fort Wayne at 5:20 p.m. the same day. Apparently only Fort Wayne's Dawson's Daily News reported this hurried trip made by Lincoln as he passed through Indiana, in February of 1860.

THE NEXT time Lincoln visited Indiana he came in a blaze of glory. He was on his way to Washington to be inaugurated President of the United States. His inaugural train entered Indiana at State Line on Feb. 11, 1861. The inaugural train made a "whistle stop" tour through all the Indiana towns, except Indianapolis. The towns and cities through which Lincoln traveled were State Line, Lafayette, Thorntown, Lebanon, Zionsville, Indianapolis, Greensburg, Shelbyville, Morris and Lawrenceburg.

The President-elect made rear platform speeches or appearances in the Indiana towns and at Thorntown he started to tell an anecdote to illustrate a point. The train started to move before he got to the place, where the laugh came in, and the people were

left to wonder what the meaning might be. Once the train arrived in Lebanon, Lincoln was informed by the people there that the Thorntown folks had followed the train on foot to hear the rest of the story. The story was about a candidate's horse that stopped to bite every bush and the candidate arrived after the convention was over. So Lincoln said that "if he made a stump speech at every railway station he would not arrive until the inauguration was over."

The trip through Indiana brought cheering crowds to every station and

the reception for Lincoln at Indianapolis was on an elaborate scale, quite beyond anything in the previous history of the Indiana capital. Governor Oliver P. Morton extended to President-elect Lincoln official greetings. Replying to Governor Morton's greetings Lincoln said, to give only some excerpts of his address, that: "If the Union of these States and the liberties of this people, shall be lost, it is but little to any one man of 52 years of age, but a great deal to the thirty millions of people who inhabit these

(Continued on Next Page)



Smith



McCulloch



Usher

Hoosiers in the Cabinet: Caleb B. Smith, Secretary of the Interior; Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury; John P. Usher, Secretary of Interior.

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(Continued from Page 37)



Lincoln photographed in 1861  
by C. S. German, Springfield, Ill.

United States, and to their posterity in all coming time." Evidently Lincoln was thinking of his 52d birthday which he would celebrate the next day on the 12th of February. Lincoln continued, "I appeal to you again to constantly bear in mind that with you, and not with politicians, not with presidents, not with office-seekers, but with you, is the question, shall the Union and shall the liberties of this country be preserved to the latest generations?"

Lincoln made two addresses at Indianapolis, one from the rear platform of his railway coach, and one from the balcony of the Bates House (Claypool Hotel). Spending the night at Indianapolis, Mr. Lincoln and his party continued on their journey to Cincinnati. Lawrenceburg, Ind., was the last town in which Abraham Lincoln spoke or visited in Indiana, and the press dispatches stated that he left, "amid salutes, music and tumultuous cheering." His parting words were,

"... if you, the people, are but true to yourselves and to the Constitution, there is but little harm I can do, thank God."

AS PRESIDENT of the United States Lincoln did not forget Indiana and its important role in saving the Union. The truth of the matter is that Governor Morton would not let him forget. The year that Lincoln took the oath of office there was considerable fear that civil war might break out in Kentucky, that Union men would be defeated and that Kentucky would join the Confederacy. This would place Indiana on the border line of the war. Morton wrote Lincoln long and pleading letters that are to be found in the Lincoln National Life Foundation archives:

"Our state is more exposed to the dangers arising from civil war in Kentucky than any other. It will be a sad day to you and to the nation when Kentucky drifts into revolution. The misfortune at Bull Run would be a mere trifle compared with it, and it can best be averted in my humble judgment by thoroughly arming the militia of Southern Indiana and stationing regular forces at proper points on the border."

We know the outcome. Kentucky was not lost to the Union and Indiana did not become a battleground.

Reversing the situation, in the election year of 1864 Lincoln called on Indiana for help. On Sept. 19, 1864, Lincoln wrote Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman a letter which is in the Foundation's archives, that:

"The state election of Indiana occurs on the 11th of October and the loss of it, to the friends of the government, would go far toward losing the whole Union cause. The bad ef-

fect upon the November election, and especially the giving the state government to those who will oppose the war in every possible way, are too much to risk, if it can possibly be avoided. Indiana is the only important state, voting in October, whose soldiers cannot vote in the field. Anything you can safely do to let her soldiers, or any part of them, go home and vote at the state election will be greatly in point."

While Indiana had within its boundaries a strong Copperhead movement, it never let the President down at the polls at election time.

Indiana poured troops into Union armies, furnished three members of Lincoln's Cabinet (not all at the same time), provided generals to lead Union armies, sent strong leaders to Congress and backed up Lincoln's philosophy of Union and democratic government "that we shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of earth." Lincoln, Indiana and the Union prevailed, although it has been said that the Civil War was the most tragic breakdown of democratic processes in history.

The Lincoln National Life Foundation files abound with Lincoln's references to Indiana men. On Dec. 4, 1862, Lincoln wrote, on a petition signed by 10 Indiana politicians recommending the appointment of John T. Morrison of Indiana for the position of quartermaster with the rank of captain that the "recommendation being by nearly all of the Indiana delegation, I wish the appointment made if can consistently be done." Another endorsement is found in a letter written by John S. Tarkington, father of the celebrated novelist, Booth Tarkington. John Tarkington wanted his uncle transferred to the regular Army with the rank of

captain. Lincoln's recommendation dated May 13, 1862, "Respectfully submitted (the letter) to the Secretary of War."

THE YEAR 1865 witnessed the colossal tragedy of our history—the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Springfield, Ill., was decided upon by the Lincoln family as the city where the President's remains were to be entombed. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, immediately began working on a schedule and itinerary for the numerous railroads that would be required to convey the body back to the Illinois capital. Many people were of the opinion that the funeral cortege would follow the route of 1861 when President-elect Lincoln journeyed from Springfield to Washington. Wild rumors, completely unfounded, had the funeral train visiting practically every village and town in the Midwest. Even Federal and state officials were often confused by conflicting orders and misleading information.

The citizens of Fort Wayne were even surprised to read a *Gazette Extra* handbill dated Thursday, April 20, 1865, announcing that "President Lincoln's remains were to stop at Fort Wayne as the funeral train would proceed to Springfield by way of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad." This rumor proved false. Even though Lincoln had been hanged in effigy on Oct. 2, 1860, within Fort Wayne's city limits, the residents were now eager to mourn the passing of the martyred President.

Stanton altered Lincoln's funeral itinerary by omitting Pittsburgh and Cincinnati and by detouring by way of Chicago, instead of going direct to Springfield from Indianapolis. Lincoln's remains reached Indianapolis

(Continued on Page 40)



This rare photograph is a scene at the Indiana Statehouse on April 30, 1865, when President Lincoln's body lay in state, en route to burial at Springfield.



An eight-horse team (only six show in photo) drew hearse carrying Lincoln's body from the train to the Indiana Statehouse and back again to the train.



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## INDIANA AND THE CIVIL WAR

Continued from Page 38)



The Lincoln funeral car. It was built at the government railway shops, Alexandria, Va., and when it was designed, it was intended to be used as the President's private coach.

from Columbus, O., by way of the Columbus & Indianapolis Central Railway which is now a part of the Pennsylvania road. The first Indiana city to be reached en route to Indianapolis was Richmond. All day Sunday, April 30, the body was in Indianapolis on public view in the Indiana Statehouse. About midnight the coffin was closed for the next journey by way of a "Special" train en route to Chicago.

The "Special" en route to Chicago was made up at Indianapolis and consisted of five cars of the Michigan Railway Company, and two cars that had come through over the entire route. All the cars were appropriately and lavishly draped. Of the two cars named, one was the superb railway "carriage" built at the government railway shops in Alexandria, Va., and intended as the President's coach. It was in this car that the President's remains were placed. Throughout the entire trip the funeral train was preceded by a pilot engine. At every village and town along the Indiana route the grieving people gathered to watch the train go by. In many instances houses and depots were draped in black, salvos of artillery were fired, circulars of a memorial nature were distributed, choirs chanted, torches were lighted, evergreen arches were constructed, logs were burned, flags were draped and mourning badges were worn to express the grief of the country and townspeople who knew in advance that in most cases the train would not stop at their station.

The Indiana cities, towns and villages along the funeral route were: Richmond, Centerville, Cambridge City, Dublin, Lewisville, Coffin's Station, Ogdens, Raysville, Knightstown, Charlottesville, Greenfield, Cumberland, Indianapolis, Zionsville, Whitestown, Lebanon, Thorntown, Clark's Hill, Stockwell, Lafayette, Battleground, Reynolds, Francisville, Medaryville, Lucerne, San Pierre, La Crosse, Michigan City, Lake, and Gibbons.

To quote Bishop Matthew Simpson, "Never was there in the history

of man such mourning as that which accompanied the funeral procession of Abraham Lincoln."

Indiana not only visibly displayed her grief at Lincoln's funeral but she went on record as viewing the death of Lincoln as a great national calamity. The Supreme Court of the State of Indiana on the morning of June 20, 1865, adopted a preamble and resolutions that were to be spread upon the records of the court. The first resolution follows:

"That the death of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, is a great national calamity, which nearly and profoundly touches the whole people; that his patient labor and ability, his gentleness and mercy, his unsectional patriotism, and his catholic humanity, are qualities which the country could at any time ill afford to lose; and which, in times like the present it will be difficult to replace."

These resolutions along with the remarks of Justice J. Frazer are to be found in Volume 24 of the *Indiana Reports for 1866*. This is perhaps the only time in Indiana's history that an Indiana court has memorialized the passing of a president of the United States.

THE JUDGES of the Indiana Supreme Court on June 20, 1865, referred to the trying "times like the present." Perhaps, like the people of Lincoln's generation, this generation, too, faces trying "times like the present" but we hear the voice of Lincoln ringing down to us today. What Lincoln said in a message to Congress on Dec. 1, 1862, is our challenge in this testing time:

"We cannot escape history. We . . . will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance, or insignificance, can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best, hope of earth."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★







